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Military intelligence boost eyed

Washington (Reuter)—The Pentagon tentatively plans to increase the budgets of its two main intelligence arms by a total of nearly \$500 million, government sources said yesterday.

The sources said the Defense Intelligence Agency budget would increase from \$130 million in 1979 to \$249 million in 1980 and the National Security Agency budget would go from \$1.08 billion in 1979 to \$1.42 billion in 1980.

The DIA coordinates military intelligence for the secretary of defense and top military officers. The NSA monitors foreign communications from satellites, land and sea-based radio transmitters, and breaks foreign codes.

The present budget figures for both agencies are contained in White House guidelines to the Defense Department for the preparation of the 1980 defense budget that will be sent to Congress in January.

The guidelines project that the DIA budget would drop to \$167 million in 1981

and rise gradually to \$190 million, \$198 million and \$206 million in 1982, 1983 and 1984, respectively.

Under the guidelines the NSA budget would drop to \$1.36 billion in 1981 then run at about \$1.54 billion a year for 1982, 1983 and 1984, the sources said.

The sources said the "bulge" in the 1980 DIA budget was for a new, long-sought headquarters building for the agency, whose more than 4,000 employees work at scattered locations throughout Washington.

There was no word on what the NSA budget increase was for.

The new DIA building will cost around \$100 million, the sources said. The money had been in the 1979 budget but was taken out at the last moment and it was possible the same thing may happen again this year, the sources said.

They said a large part of the agency presently was housed in an aging World War II wooden building, where the sag-

ging floors no longer would hold sufficient numbers of safes for secret documents.

The new building would afford a symbol of permanence to the DIA, which a House of Representatives intelligence committee said two years ago should be abolished.

The committee said some of the DIA's functions should be given to its rival, the Central Intelligence Agency. But President Carter, in his reorganization of the nation's intelligence activities earlier this year, preserved and even strengthened the DIA's role.

The House committee also had recommended that the National Security Agency be separated from the Pentagon and be made a civilian agency.

Estimates on how much the United States spends annually on intelligence vary from \$4 billion to \$10 billion, depending on what is included.

The higher estimate would include operational money for spy satellites, surveillance planes and other equipment.